promotional benefits have not been extended by ONGC Ltd. to its employees in N.E. Region. The writ petition filed by Shri C.R. Gogoi & 16 others vs. ONGC (CR No. 119893) is under appeal before the Division Bench of High Court of Guwahati and the final decision in this regard is awaited.

Diversification by Oil Companies

1187. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for diversification by oil Companies in such fields as power generation, Petro-Chemicals and export, before the proposed deregulation of oil sector, which would enable multinationals to operate in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Distribution in Masi, Almora

1188. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representations from Public at large and some Members of Parliament for opening an extension point for distribution of LPG at Masi in District Almora, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details therof;

(c) the impediments for opening the said extension point which would cater to a large number of residents of nearby densely populated villages; and

(d) by when the said extension point is expected to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) M/s Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam have requested IOC for opening of extension point at Masi.

(c) and (d) Government have recently taken a decision to permit extension point in hilly areas beyond 15 KMs but not beyond 50 KMs from the main distributor point. Since Masi is located beyond 50 KMs from the nearest distributor M/s Ranikhet Gas Service, it is not covered under the policy. M/s Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam has not therefore taken up the case of Masi in their subsequent proposals submitted by them to Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Deduction of FPF Amount

1189. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited already deducted FPF amount from the pay of employees w.e.f. 16th November, 1995 to till date;

(b) whether Petroleum Ministry feels that Indian Oil Corporation's actions for deduction of FPF amount w.e.f. 16th November, 1995 onwards is legal according to Act No. 25. of 1996;

(c) whether the said deductions of FPF amount w.e.f 16th November, 1995 till date have been refunded to each employees in cash alongwith the cumulative interest;

(d) if so, when it was paid and the reasons for delay in refund to the employees; and

(e) whether Ministry will taken any legal action or action against Indian Oil Corporation Limited;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has reported that no amount has been deducted by them from pay of their employees specifically towards FPF with effect from 16th November 1995 till date. However, in Marketing Division amount is being